

## **Clear Lake Nutrient Control Program Board Workshop**

### **Workshop to Discuss the Status and Potential Next Steps for the Clear Lake Nutrient TMDL Control Program**

#### **Meeting Summary**

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff held a Board Workshop on 18 July 2018 to discuss the status and potential next steps for the Clear Lake Nutrient TMDL Control Program. Stakeholders also heard updates from various organizations implementing water quality efforts in the watershed, including: Big Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians and Elem Indian Colony of Pomo Indians, Middle Creek Restoration Coalition, Lake County Department of Water Resources, and Lake County Farm Bureau.

The workshop included an on-site discussion at Clear Lake followed by an afternoon meeting. Five Central Valley Water Board members and executive management from both the Sacramento and Redding offices were present at both events. Board members present were: Dr. Karl Longley, Denise Kadara, Carmen Ramirez, Bob Schneider, and Dr. Daniel Marcum. The workshop locations are below:

#### **ON-SITE DISCUSSION INFORMATION:**

**Date:** 18 July 2018

**Time:** 11AM-12PM

**Place:** Library Park

225 Park Street

Lakeport, CA 95453

#### **AFTERNOON MEETING INFORMATION:**

**Date:** 18 July 2018

**Time:** 2:30 PM-5:30 PM

**Place:** Lakeport City Hall

225 Park Street

Lakeport, CA 95453

The on-site discussion functioned as an educational event. Attendees could directly converse with Board members and staff as well as visit each organization's booths to learn more about their work within the watershed. Central Valley Water Board staff heard from attendees regarding their concerns within the watershed and asked participants to identify their top priorities from the following categories: wetland restoration, monitoring, storm water control, and erosion control. The top priority for the Clear Lake watershed, as identified by the attendees, was wetland restoration. The secondary priority was storm water control. Staff will be utilizing this information to evaluate potential next steps, identify funding efforts, and to elevate these concerns to the Blue Ribbon Committee for the Rehabilitation of Clear Lake.

At the afternoon meeting, there were a total of five presentations, followed by an open discussion for stakeholders to provide public comments to Board members.

Central Valley Water Board staff, Jennifer LaBay, presented the Board staff's assessment of each responsible party's load allocation progress, next steps in this process, and other Board activities taking place related to the Clear Lake Nutrient TMDL Control Program. The presentation acknowledged the erosion control best management practices, projects, and monitoring efforts that reflect nutrient reductions into the lake, while also highlighting that more data and information is needed to assess whether some responsible parties are meeting their respective allocation.

Sarah Ryan and Karola Kennedy presented on Big Valley Rancheria and the Elem Indian Colony's water quality initiatives in the watershed. The presentation included an overview of the Tribes' monitoring program, data compilation achievements, collaborative efforts with a number of drinking water purveyors, and mitigation actions such as manual harvesting of hydrilla. In particular, the Tribes stressed the need for efficient nutrient management to address the complexities of the Clear Lake watershed.

Dr. Harry Lyons, Secretary of the Middle Creek Restoration, provided an update on the status of the Middle Creek Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project. The presentation highlighted the recent \$15 million in funding Assembly Member Cecilia-Aguilar Curry secured to purchase the remaining land needed for the project, which the County of Lake has 4 years to spend. In addition, upcoming obstacles were addressed, including the need for continued funding efforts, requests for support from the Central Valley Water Board, and plans to expedite the process.

David Cowan presented on the Lake County Department of Water Resource's phosphorus reduction efforts and storm water activities. The County identified ongoing efforts and monitoring, including the mapping of storm water discharges and tributary monitoring during storm events. In addition, the County acknowledged the need to expand monitoring sites and capture the whole of storm events to identify hot spots requiring further erosion control efforts. Mr. Cowan also discussed next steps for demonstrating compliance with TMDL load allocations.

Brenna Sullivan provided an overview of the Lake County Farm Bureau's Irrigated Lands Program in Lake County. The presentation included commonly used best management practices by farmers in the County, an assessment of monitoring data, continuing efforts by the Farm Bureau to reach out to farmers in the area to increase enrollment in programs focused on sustainable management, and next steps for demonstrating compliance with TMDL load allocations.

Following the presentations, the Board provided an opportunity for interested persons to make oral presentations to the Board members and staff. To ensure a productive and efficient workshop, oral presentations were limited to 3-minutes. During the discussion following the slide presentations, seven stakeholders submitted speaker cards and presented formal comments.

The following bullets summarize meeting participant comments regarding priorities for the Nutrient Control Program.

- Wetland restoration: Increased efforts and funding are required to expedite the Middle Creek Restoration Project. Small-scale projects such as tule replanting should also be

acknowledged as an important aspect of wetland restoration. In addition, the benefits of wetland restoration to threatened species, such as the native Clear Lake hitch, should also be prioritized.

- Additional monitoring locations are needed to identify erosive areas in the watershed, followed by erosion control practices. This data is required to see whether responsible parties are meeting their allocation.
- The nutrient impacts from septic tanks surrounding the rim of Clear Lake needs to be further assessed. Data needs to be collected on the number of septic tanks present and their existing condition.
- The creation of a third-party coalition for cannabis regulation should be explored as an option to assist growers in adhering to regulations and building sustainable practices.
- Updated advisory signs are needed in more areas around the watershed to better identify whether the lake is safe to recreate in.
  - David Cowan and Sarah Ryan confirmed that they are working in coordination to update signage around the lake, which would be updated to reflect Cautionary and Warning levels. These signs are expected to be installed later this summer.
- Central Valley Water Board received a question regarding the monitoring stations installed at Caltrans. The stations, which were installed in 2010, captured storm events in 2011-2013. Due to vandalism of a station and insufficient flows in 2011, this data was not evaluated. The monitoring data from 2012-2013 captured two complete storm events. The data from these events estimated the phosphorus load was between 84-122 kg phosphorus/year. Based on this data, Caltrans' erosion control projects, and pollution prevention best management practices, the Board staff determined Caltrans is meeting their allocation.

#### Action Items and Next Steps

Central Valley Water Board staff will consider all comments and concerns heard at the 18 July 2018 Board Workshop. Staff will be coordinating with responsible parties to receive additional information and identify methods that will verify if load allocations are being met. Following the gathering and evaluation of this information and data, Staff will evaluate next steps. In addition, staff will continue ongoing efforts to identify funding opportunities and research studies.

For notifications and updates regarding this process, subscribe to the [Clear Lake Nutrient TMDL electronic mailing list](#).